

MUDDLER MINNOW



Recipe

Hook.....Streamer, size 4-14 3XL-4XL
Thread.....Black 3/0 or 6/0
Tail.....Mottled turkey quill segment
Rib.....Small oval gold tinsel (Optional)
Body.....Flat gold tinsel
Underwing...Squirrel tail
Wing.....Mottled turkey quill segments
Head.....Deer hair

1. Tie-in thread about $\frac{1}{4}$ of the hook shank behind the hook eye, then wrap it back to the hook bend in touching turns to create a solid thread base. Let the thread hang. Cut a matched set of quill segments from a turkey quill. (The segments should be $\frac{1}{2}$ the hook gap in width.) Align the tips of the segments and hold them together so that they curve in toward each other. Still holding them together and with the tips pointing down, use a pinch wrap to tie them in on top of the hook shank at the hook bend. **(The tail should be $\frac{1}{2}$ the hook shank in length.)**
2. ***IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT SEVERAL PATTERNS FOR THE MUDDLER USE ONLY A SINGLE QUILL SEGMENT FOR THE TAIL AND THE WING. IT IS YOUR OPTION AS TO HOW YOU WANT TO DO IT. THE STEPS FOR TYING IN A SINGLE SEGMENT ARE THE SAME AS FOR TWO SEGMENTS. TRY BOTH WAYS.***
3. Bind down the tail segment butts using flattened thread in tight touching turns over the rear $\frac{2}{3}$ of the hook shank. Make sure to keep the segment butts on top of the hook as you bind them down. **(Ensure that you form a smooth underbody as you bind down the tail butts. This will be important when you form the tinsel body.)** Trim off any excess tail butts. Wrap the thread back to the hook bend and let it hang.
4. Now tie-in a 5" piece of small oval tinsel so that the butt end lines up with the front end of the tail segment butts and the remainder goes back over the hook bend. Bind down the rib butt with flattened thread, wrapping forward to the front of the underbody. **Keep the rib butt on top of the hook shank and ensure you have a smooth underbody.** Let the thread hang at the front of the underbody.
5. Tie-in a 8"-10" piece of flat tinsel at the front end of the underbody. The tinsel should lie on top of the hook shank at a backward angle (to help in wrapping) when you tie it in. Now wrap the tinsel back to the hook bend in touching turns, then reverse direction and wrap back to the tie-in point, forming a smooth double-layer tinsel body. Tie off the tinsel, remove the excess, and let the thread hang.

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6. Wrap the rib forward in 5-6 evenly spaced, concentric turns, to the front of the tinsel body, then tie it off, cut off the excess, and let the thread hang.
7. Clean and stack a sparse bundle of squirrel tail hair. Tie it in on top of the hook shank directly in front of the tinsel body. **(This underwing should reach back to the middle of the tail.)** Bind down the tail butts for 3-4 wraps, then trim off the excess and wrap the thread back to the base of the underwing. Let the thread hang.
8. Now cut a pair of matched quill segment wings that are one hook gap wide. Keeping the tips even, sandwich the quill sections around the squirrel underwing. **(The wing segments should reach back to almost the end of the tail.)** The quill segments should lie on top of hook shank, flanking the squirrel hair on either side. Use a pinch wrap to mount the quill wings at the base of the squirrel tail. Cut off the butts at a downward angle and bind them down with twisted thread **(spin the thread clockwise)** to form a smoothly tapering thread base for the collar. Wrap the thread back to just in front of the quill wing and let it hang.
9. Clean and stack a bundle of deer hair about ½ the hook gap in thickness. Holding the hair butts firmly, slide the hair tips over the hook eye so that the hook shank is approximately centered inside the hair bundle and the hair tips extend back to the center of the body.
10. Using your left hand fingers, encircle the hair bundle and hold it in position so that the hair is more or less evenly distributed around the hook shank. Still holding the bundle, take 2 turns of thread around it under light tension, then pull down on the thread to tighten the wraps and flare the hair outward. Slightly relax your hold on the hair with your left fingers, forming a loose “cage” around the hair tips **(this keeps them from getting trapped beneath the thread)**. Now take 2-3 additional tight wraps of thread over the previous wraps. **(If the hair rolls around the shank a little, that’s okay. It just helps distribute the hair fibers.)** With the hair secured, draw the thread forward toward the hook eye, slipping it between the flared hair butts. With the left fingers, preen the hair butts backward to expose the front base, then take 3-4 additional tight thread wraps tight against the front base of the hair butts to make them stand up. The hair tips (and the butts) should now encircle the shank uniformly with the thread in front.
11. Now clip, clean, and stack another bundle of deer hair about half the hook gap in width. Cut off the tips, center the bundle in front of the collar butts, and spin it around the hook shank. Bring the thread to the front of the hair, then pack the hair back tightly against the collar butts. If there is more than a short portion of bare hook shank remaining, spin another bundle of deer hair in front of the first bundle and pack it tightly. The thread should be in front of the bundle.
12. Preen the hair backward, form a small thread head, whip finish, and cut the thread. Carefully apply head cement to the thread wraps only.
13. Take your scissors, and working **very** carefully, begin to shape the muddler head. **(It should be a blunt, slightly flattened cone that is flat on the bottom.)** First, trim the hair butts next to the hair tip collar just enough to expose the hair tips. **(DO NOT TRIM THE HAIR BUTTS.)** Now trim the hair butts on the underside of the fly flat and close to the hook shank. Now rough-cut the hair head **(not the hair tip collar)** into a rectangular block, then taper the sides of the head from the back toward the hook eye so that there is a visible taper toward the hook eye. Taper the top of the head similarly in a downward taper toward the hook eye. Continue this tapering until you’re satisfied with the size of the head. Now round out the corners to make a head that is a smoothly tapered cone that is flat on the bottom.
14. Trim away any stray hairs around the hook eye.

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